The Newsletter of The UnEarthly Children

The Children's Page

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3 MARCH 1986

"I broke your zipper."

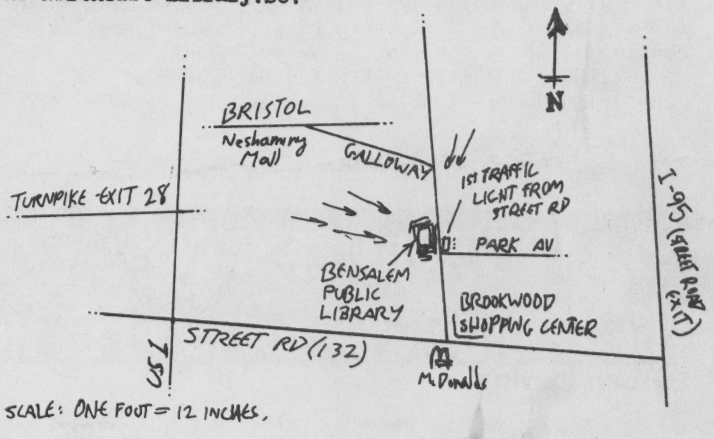
NEXT MEETING ~ A SLIPBACK

Thomas Wolfe wrote "You can't go home again". Well, that's a bunch of bunk! We will be returning to old haunts for our March 15th meeting. Sadly, the Northeast Regional Public Library is unavailable this month, so the meeting will be held at the Bensalem branch of the Bucks County Free Library, on Hulmeville Road, just off Street Rd. This was the site of UEC meetings from April 1984 to September 1985; recognition of the library as an historical landmark by the county is pending. Sorry, there's no revolving door, but it's got neat turnstiles!

Because of the large amount of fan activity this month (two conventions and a WHYY fundraiser), the meeting will be very informal, mainly an opportunity to get together and chat. However, we may show the cable talk show on which Wil and Cecily appeared, and a Doctor WHO version of "Trivial Pursuit" will be created and playtested.

We realize that this new(?) site is not as accessible as the Northeast, and we will make every effort to arrange rides for as many people as we can. If you need a ride, or would like to offer one, please contact Cynthia, UEC's own Deptartment of Transportation (CynDOT) at (215) 322-1460, or your local High Councillor.

As this meeting will be more casual than most it will be an excellent opportunity for members to get aquainted with us and each other, and for old aquaintances to get together. Remember; the next meeting is Saturday, March 15 1986, at the Bensalem Library at 1pm EST. All future meetings this year, with the exception of May, will be at the Northeast Library.So?



WHONews

by Michael Jeffrey Cohen

The biggest news item to date is the announcement that Bonnie Langford will play the Doctor's 26th companion. This bodes well for the programme's future, as in recent years companions have not been hired for a mere two stories.

Ms Langford is a 21-year-old singer and dancer. English fans are dubious about her acting ability, but these fears seem to be unfounded. Bonnie began acting professionally at age 12; she has appeared on television, feature films and the stage. She performed in the West End company of "Cats", on Broadway in "Gypsy", and currently plays the lead role in a stage production of "Peter Pan".

The new companion is called Melanie -- we don't have a last name yet. She's a computer programmer from Suffolk, UK, a bubbly personality into aerobics and natural foods (boo, hiss!). She'll join the Doctor in episode 9 of the 23d season

It is generally felt that this cast change was made in response to Michael Grade's call for "more commercial" names in the DOCTOR WHO cast. DWFCA's Ron Katz has speculated that Ms Langford was hired by JN-T to spice up convention cabarets!

There is still no confirmation from the Production Office that Nicola Bryant will leave before the end of season 23. Unfortunately, John Nathan-Turner has been the least reliable source of information ever since the shutdown last March.

Directors commissioned thus far for the new season are Nick Mallett, who will helm six Robert Holmes-written episodes. These take place on or near Gallifrey and will go out either as one six-part story, or three two-parters. "Vengeance on Varos" director Ron Jones will collaborate with "Varos" writer Philip Martin on a four-parter featuring Sil. The other four-episode story is written by former script editor Christopher H. Bidmead. New companion Melanie will probably debut in this story.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE is the official monthly newsletter of the UnEarthly Children, the Philadelphia chapter of the Doctor WHO Fan Club of America. Dues are five dollars a year. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the third Saturday of each month.

The UEC is run by the High Council, which can be reached either by writing to the UEC, Box 642, Richboro, PA 18954, or by telephone (between 6 and 9pm) to the following:

Wil Shrader, President, general information: (215) 343-5715
Cecily Chambers, membership: (215) 355-3992
Dorrie Sillman, Treasurer: (215) 357-7245
Michael J. Cohen, volunteer coordination: (215) 322-1677
Ted Slampyak, Editor: (215) 672-0324

UECNews

Well, unfortunately, the bus trip we had hoped to arrange for our Valley Forge area residents to the DWFCA festival in Trenton on March 23rd had to be cancelled, as we recieved only one (1) reply for it.

Hey, we're gonna be on TV! On Saturday afternoon, March 8th, the UnEarthly Children will tend the phones for WHYY TV12's fundraiser. We already have enough volunteers, but there's plenty of room for more. If you'd like to be on TV, help Public Television and have a fun time doing it, ring Mike, our volunteer coordinator, at (215) 322-1677. (Volunteers need be 17 or older.)

Those of you who will be watching us on March 8th, give us a call and make a pledge. Doctor WHO will only stay on as long as we foot the bill, and all good Children give their share, right? Also, when you get your pledge reminder in the mail, write "Doctor WHO" on the envelope you send back, just to remind them why you gave.

America is a country on the move, and if you're on the move, let us know well in advance your new address. After all, the folks you sold your place to didn't buy it AND a year of The Children's Page (I know, America is a continent, not a country. Leave me alone!)

ATTENTION CREATIVE PEOPLE!! Both of you! (Only kidding!) The UEC is looking for a few good filks -- and a LOT of bad ones. We're thinking of compiling a Filk Songbook, so send your lyrics in! Even "questionable" ones, though perhaps not printed, will cheer us up no end.

By the way, if any of you out there don't know us (the High Council) and would like to (why, I can't understand), just give us a call! I know the term "High Council" sounds important, elitist and aristocratic, but really, we're just average folks! So give us a ring, or say hi at a meeting, and we'll chat. At meetings many of us who know each other may seem to be in a closed group, but that honestly isn't so. Just stroll up and mention the weather -- you'll be surprised how quickly we become friends. So don't deprive us of the chance of meeting you -- that's what the meetings are for!

Hey, as you may have read in MATRIX dots elsewhere in this issue, we're planning our birthday party to be something REALLY BIG. With UEC, PoP, JJ,GELI, and TT (see the article to find out what all those stupid acronyms mean) all participating. Our tentative site is Morristown, NJ, but if any of you know of a really good spot, preferably in New Jersey (the center of all these clubs), then send your ideas to Cecily, by phone ((215)355-3992) or mail (Box 642, Richboro, PA 18954)

One more thing. This may sound basic but let's state it anyway. If any of you have any complaints, shortcomings, suggestions, or even praise, please let us know. We can't help if we don't know what's wrong, and if we do something right, it's usually by accident anyway so tell us if it's good and we'll try to do it again. Thank you, and take care of yourselves.(And eat your vegetables!)

LAST-MINUTE SCOOP: John Nathan-Turner has stated that he is tired of using human villains on Doctor WHO, since they don't erupt in green slime or explode when they die.

RELATIVE DIMENSIONS

the OOOnly way to travel in time

By Ben Plavin

A relative dimension is the space inside a Time And Relative Dimensions In Space vehicle (TARDIS). It is immense in comparison to its exterior. It is, as the name would relate, in a dimension all to itself, but relative to our own. The two dimensions, real and relative, are connected through the real world interface.

Another term for having relative dimensions is being transdimensional, meaning, when you separate the root word from the prefix, to be moving through dimensions, which is what you would be doing if you crossed over the TARDIS threshold.

But, even though it is in a different dimension, the relative dimension can still be affected by outside forces. If the TARDIS was thrown on its side the persons and objects within would feel the same gravitational effects as if they had been in a non-transdimensional Earth vehicle that had been turned on its side. That is, unless the auto-gravity circuits were on. In that case, the relative dimension would remain vertical, unless it were hit suddenly by some outside overpowering force, but it would then immediately re-right itself (as in "Time Flight").

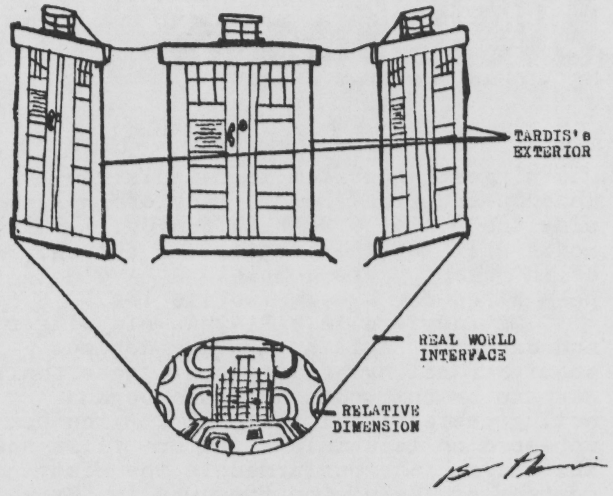
This whole field of key Time Lord technology is called "temporal physics".

Without a relative dimension in each TARDIS, Time Lords couldn't travel through time. If they did try they would age or regress depending on the number of years they went backwards or forwards through time from their starting point. Here is where the true genious of the concept shows.

While the exterior of a TARDIS exists in the real universe and travels through time the relative dimension remains stationary in its own time and space, not affecting a time-travelling time-traveler at all.

There are other special abilities that a relative dimension possesses. One of these is that it is in a state of "temporal grace", meaning that, if it is working properly, it would render most weapons inoperable. In "Earthshock" the Cyberleader proved to the Doctor that his TARDIS's stats of "temporal grace" was out of order. Since it has worked before, as in stories like "The Hand of Fear", it is unknown how long it hasn't worked.

A relative dimension can also have parts of itself disconnected and jettisoned, as shown in "Logopolis" and "Castrovalva".



Finally, the Real World Interface is capable of being connected to certain other points in the relative dimension, such as an alternate control room, like the one shown in stories such as "The Masque of the Mandragora".

The relative dimension has been taken very much for granted over the years. The Doctor just saunters through the doors of the TARDIS and it's there. But if he didn't have it, he couldn't travel through time. And, if that were the case, he wouldn't be much of a Lord of Time, would he?

It is tough to grasp the immensity of these theorems, but, I hope that with my article I helped to make it all the more easy to understand.

Meteorological Conspiracy Rocks February Meeting

by Michael Jeffrey Cohen

The High Council possess considerable circumstantial evidence of a conspiracy among the National Weather Service and certain Eastern European powers to deny the UEC good weather on meeting days.

The last time a UEC meeting was accompanied by acceptable weather was September. December's assembly was preceded by light sticking snow which made driving less than ideal. In January, rain and slurries persisted roughly from 1-4 pm. And a major snowstorm Friday night did wonders for our February meeting.

As a result of the inclement conditions our attendance at the last meeting dropped to about 35. In addition, a decision was made not to risk borrowed video equipment on the slippery trek to the library, resulting in the cancellation of our main programming, the UEC/PoP cable talk show we've been telling you about.

As if that weren't enough, our Lord President discovered the detrimental effect low temperatures have on fifteen-year-old automobiles, finally arriving 40 minutes into the meeting. Wil was responsible for most of the opening announcements which had to be delayed, resulting in the sale of lots of T-shirts, but little else of a positive nature.

Fortunately, our brave and talented members took their share of the load. Thanks especially to Ben Plavin and Rich Kaplan for filking precious time away.

Wil presented another, shorter Mad Lib, subsequently read by Ted The Editor. This was followed by my mercifully-brief discussion of fanzines (thanks to Gail Daltry for bringing her 'zines). Thus, the "formal" part of the meeting came to an overdue end.

We'd like to congratulate Steve Cluck on winning two deluxe Trenton tickets in our raffle, and Rick Greene, who walked away with $8.50 from our 50-50 drawing.

Our transportation coordinator, Cynthia Mareno, apologises for missing her second consecutive meeting, and requests that those interested in a bus trip to the Trenton show ring her up at 215-322 1460.

Transcripts of our Bennigan's dinner conversation will be made available, in a plain brown wrapper, to members over 21.

by Michael Jeffrey Cohen

The major topic of discussion within the North East Matrix this month has been our second annual Birthday Picnic.

Details on the picnic are still being finalised. Our proposed site is the Brookside Community Club in Morristown, NJ, but other venues are being considered. The date of the party will be the 21st or 28th of June (both are Saturdays).

Anyone who attended last year's UEC/Prydonians of Prynceton birthday celebration knows how much fun it was to get together with friends in both clubs for skits, filks, cricket (we won!), videos, FOOD, ogling Ted's new TARDIS and enjoying the May sunshine. This year, at least three additional clubs will partake of the festivities: the Jersey Jagaroth (self-proclaimed fannish cricket champions), the Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island and the area's newest club, Tardis Tours.

Planning for the party is being done by the fledgling Matrixcon committee, chaired by Mimi Oakley and Cecily Chambers.

CONews

compiled by Michael Jeffrey Cohen

There's very little news since last month's listing, but here's what we can tell you at this time:

23d Mar: Dr Who Festival, Trenton War Memorial, Trenton, NJ. Patrick Troughton. Admission: $10 adult for UEC/DWFCA members; $7.50 child. Order now: tix are going fast and there might not be any available at the door. Info: DWFCA, PO Box 6198, Denver, CO 80206; 303-322 5072.

Trains run from Center City to Trenton hourly, for about $2.50, and the War Memorial is only a ten-minute walk from the Trenton station.

28th-30th Mar: Macon Opus Con I, Macon Hilton, Macon, GA. Jon Pertwee, Louise Jameson, James Doohan. Memberships: $20.00 at door (for 3 days). Info: $MG(SF)^2$, 4315 Pio Nono Avenue, Macon, GA 31206.

4th-6th Apr: I-CON V, SUNY-Stony Brook, Long Island, NY. Jon Pertwee, Norman Spinrad, Jack Williamson, Barry B. Longyear, James P. Hogan, Diane Duane, James Doohan, Vincent DiFate, Tim Hildebrandt, David Mattingly, others. Memberships: $14 to 20th March; $16 at door (for 3 days). May be Jon's only Northeast appearance in 1986. Info: ICON, PO Box 550, Stony Brook, NY 11790; 516-246 3673.

24th-26th May: Spirit of Light con, New Brunswick, NJ (probably the Hyatt). Name, guests, admission still unknown; if Norman ever gets back from London we'll have more info. Spirit of Light Enterprises, 4805 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641; 312-283 DWHO.

1st-3d Aug: TARDISCON '86, Adam's Mark Hotel, St Louis, MO. Mark Strickson, others. The North American Time Festival. Memberships: $36 at door (for 3 days). Info: TARDISCON, Box 39305, St Louis, MO 63139.

28th-30th Nov: TARDIS 23, Hyatt Regency-Downtown, Chicago, IL. Guests, admission unknown. This is the big one. Info: Spirit of Light Enterprises, 4805 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641.

...MATRIX dots

the local threat to doctor who

By James C. Armstrong, Jnr.

Many of you may have noticed that your local cable companies in eastern Pennsylvania have stopped carrying New Jersey Network and Doctor WHO. If so, you are (understandably) upset. There are reasons why this occurred, and you can do something about it.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in Washington, is responsible for the regulation of the airwaves (radio of all types and television) in this country. As television falls under their jurisdiction, when cable television became affordable for many people, it also became their oyster. In order to prevent undue dislocation for the television stations in an area, the FCC originally required a cable company to carry all television stations which could be recieved in the area with normal means. That regulation was overturned in 1985, allowing cable companies to pick and choose which stations they carry and which stations they don't. Often, it is the public television stations which are dropped.

New Jersey Network is one of the largest public television networks in the country; they produce many of their own shows, as well as bring the best of other PBS shows to the New Jersey area. This includes not only New Jersey, but eastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, New York City, Long Island, and southeastern New York State. However, cable companies outside of New Jersey are dropping NJN anyway.

Many television stations so affected are banding together to challenge the regulations in the courts. In the meantime, you can put pressure on the FCC and your local cable companies to carry all the stations in the area, and tell them that you want to watch New Jersey Network on your cable system! The address of the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

The cable companies involved are:

Lower Bucks Cablevision
2320 Trenton Road
Levittown, PA 19056

Colonial Cable
PO Box 198
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Cablevision of Norristown
215 West Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Lower Bucks serves Levittown, Bristol, Bristol Twp, Hulmeville, Langhorne, Langhorne Twp, Lower Makefield Twp, Middle Twp, Penndel, and Yardley. Colonial Cable serves Whitemarsh Twp and all of Montgomery County. Cablevision of Norristown serves Bridgeport, Conshohocken, East & West Norriton Twp, West Conshohocken, part of Whitemarsh Twp, and Whitpain Twp. If you live in these areas, or are worried about the threat to public television posed by these cuts, write to the FCC and your local cable company!

(You think James should have called this article "I Want My NJN"? Nah, that sounds like something I would do!--Ed.)

GALLIFREYAN EMBASSY

RAIDED!

PRESIDENT PLEADS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

By Wil Shrader

Recently, representatives of the North East Matrix paid a good-will visit to the Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island. What follows is a first-hand account of that historic visit.

Picture a tall, thin young man dressed in a black version of Doctor #5's cricket outfit, walking down a residential street in N. Massapequa, New York. We shall call this man Mr. Black.

Close on Mr. Black's heels is a rather solidly built, red-headed man with a rather long, curly red beard who is dressed in a white cricket outfit and is carrying a very big "club" casually over his shoulder. We shall call him Mr. White.

Striding purposefully along with Mr. White are perhaps ten to fifteen persons, two of which are carrying three white, sharply pointed "stakes".

This strangely sinister-looking group make their way to a large field where they form a rather copious circle around Mr. Black and Mr. White who are busily pounding three stakes into the ground each in the center of the circle.

The two sets of "stakes" are approximately thirty feet apart and Mr. Black assumes a position by one set while Mr. White assumes a position at the opposite set.

Mr. Black has somehow come into possession of the big "club", while Mr. White has mysteriously produced a deep-red sphere.

Mr. White then hurls the sphere with great effort and force, accompanied by some very strange, stiff motion toward Mr. Black. Mr. Black repels this attack by batting the sphere away with the "club". His efforts, however, are for naught as the followers of Mr. White quickly retrieve the sphere and return it to Mr. White so that the attack may be renewed.

Was this some sort of satanic ritual? We shall see.

After perhaps twenty minutes of Mr. White's attacking Mr. Black in this manner, the local law enforcement officials appear on the scene in their white "charger".

Now it must be remarked that the attire of the local law enforcement officials look as strange to some as do the events taking place on the field. Worn on the upper arm of their deep indigo shirts, each has a sizable black, white and yellow checkerboard patch. Tied smartly about each of their necks is a prominent fire-engine-red necktie.

The official in charge announces in his best authoritative voice, "You can't do that here...What are you doing?" to which the President of the Gallifreyan Embassy replies (despite urgings from the group for him to plead diplomatic immunity), "Playing Cricket".

"Right. What's Cricket?"

At the conclusion of a brief, but not very accurate explanation, all charges are dropped and the group is directed to an area where such activities would be more appropriate and tolerated in the eyes of the local civic association.

So, if you ever visit the Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island, be sure to carry your passport and visa and look forward to even the most innocent and otherwise unremarkable activity becoming one of which stories are made.

Filksong Singalong

CONVENTION LIFE

(tune of "Army Life")

originally written by the UnEarthly Children staff working a Creation Convention, June 1985:

Amy Sutter, Betsy Anne Cordrey, Peggy E. Seymour, Kim Hoffman, Lesley McBain, Michael J. Cohen and Ted Slampyak (and apologies for anyone we missed)

The guests at the conventions
They say are mighty fine
We stand there for three hours
Then we can get in line

CHORUS.
I don't want no more convention life
Gee, Doc, I wanna go home

The videos at conventions
They say are mighty fine
The Caves of Androzani
Repeated twenty times

CHORUS.

The room with all the dealers
Is packed when you get in
And you've paid fifteen dollars
For a complimentary pin

CHORUS.

The staff at these conventions
Will never wander far
If you should need to find one
Go look inside the bar

CHORUS.

The costumes at conventions
They say are mighty fine
But if I see just one more scarf
I'll go and shoot K9

CHORUS.

DWFCA at conventions
Are quite a sight to see
If you buy just five K9s
You'll get the sixth one free

CHORUS.

The auctioneer at the convention
Is really on the ball
Here's another shooting script
To a little movie I like to call

CHORUS.

The food at the conventions
They say is really great
I wouldn't know about it
I can't afford the rate

CHORUS.

The prices at conventions
I'm sure are fair, and yet
I'm in my fifteenth mortgage
To keep me out of debt

CHORUS.

The all-night filksong sessions
And parties are a blast
Perhaps at work on Monday
We'll get some sleep at last

CHORUS.

This song is never finished
Just add another verse
To hell with all the quality
It couldn't get much worse

I don't want no more convention life
Gee, Doc, I wanna go
Daleks won't let me go
Gee, Doc, I wanna go home.

Send your own verses to the editor. When we've compiled enough of them, we'll print an addendum. See you at the next con!

ALSO -- Bring your copy to the March meeting for a rousing sing-along! (Perfect pitch is totally unnecessary!)

Diagonal Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

So, editors get lonely too, huh? Is that a thinly disguised plea for personal companionship, or do you just want mail?

What sort of letters do you want? Epistles showering your editorship with unqualified awe and trembling admiration, or indecent proposals? Or comments on the newsletter? The awe and downcast eyes are a little hard, and the indecent proposals couldn't be printed in a family newsletter, so that narrows it down somewhat.

More people should contribute, of course. I know of at least one other talented artist out there who probably won't appreciate the suggesting of his doing some work, so there have to be more out in the wastelands. As for writers, the same applies: where is everyone lurking? Surely there are some gifted souls capable of the odd filk or such? (Especially if they've spent time in the Centre Hotel bar composing -- shall we say risqué -- pieces.)

With more contributions, the layout could be more imaginative -- no criticism intented, Your Editorship; I quite understand your limitations.

There, o exalted one, is your requested letter. Now will you spell your name right?

Ex-Leela

Dear ~~Leeley~~ LEELA,

Thanks for your letter, and this one's REAL! Your comments are much appreciated, and you're indeed quite right: We need more contributors! (Those of you who are sick of seeing Mike and me dominate these pages have only yourselves to blame!)

By the way, what's this "more imaginative" stuff?

Ted Snackpack, Editor

Dear Editor,

Howcome you spell "totall" with only one L?

Fictitious II

Dear Jr.,

Blame it on press censorship.

Teditor

Who's On Fifth©

by Ted Slampyak

FELLOW CLUBS

The following list is provided to those of you who are interested in joining other area fan clubs. All are involved in tne NorthEast Matrix (NEM) and we recommend each of them. Also, all have regular meetings and newsletters and annual dues of $6 .

The Prydonians of Prynceton
Gallifrey East
359 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 921-8148
meetings on first Saturday of each month

The Jersey Jagaroth
51 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Morristown, NJ 07960
(201) 895-3260
meetings on second Saturday of each month.

Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island
232 Hoke Ave.
Oceanside, NY 11572
(516) 766-6127

TARDIS Tours
P.O.Box 1064
Bethlehem, PA 18016
(215) 868-8342
first meeting March 8th

These are the OFFICIAL Matrix-member Doctor WHO fan clubs in this area. Look into 'em! WE like 'em!

who wares

The following items are available by mail order:

Logo T-shirt, white on black, sizes S, M, L, XL, $6 each plus $1.25 p&h

Police Box T-shirt, white on royal blue, sizes S, M, L, XL, $6 each plus $1.25 p&h

Buttons:
GOD SAVE THE DOCTOR (in Olde English script)
BRING BACK COLIN
JAMIE: KILTED WONDER
I SURVIVED VALLEY FORGE
each $1 plus $.30 p&h. If you order your buttons with a T-shirt, you can save the $.30 postage costs for the buttons.

We also have some exclusive photos of various stars. Please inquire.

The UnEarthly Children logo button can be obtained by new members by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope or with merchandise ordered. It can also be picked up at the UEC table at cons or our monthly meetings.

Send your check, payable to The UnEarthly Children, to:

UEC Merchandise
P.O. Box 642
Richboro, PA 18954

THE UNEARTHLY CHILDREN

P.O. BOX 642
RICHBORO, PA 18954

ARE YOU SEEING RED?! If there's a red circle on your mailing label, it's time to renew! If you don't, this is your last newsletter. Just a friendly reminder!